

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USBERLIN UNN
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 6140

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR CSCE CGEN CVIS GE US
SUBJ: GDR MFA OFFICIAL DISCUSSES HUMANITARIAN CASES: ARE SOME OF
THEM ARTIFICIAL?

REF: BERLIN 5940(NOTAL)

1. ON MAY 24, AT EMBASSY RECEPTION, DR. HANS-MARTIN GEYER, DIRECTOR,
USA-CANADA-JAPAN DEPT, MFA, DISCUSSED THE HUMANITARIAN
CASES ISSUE WITH EMBOFF (WOLF), HE BEGAN BY ACKNOWLEDGING EMBOFF
COMMENTS THAT HE HAD JUST RECEIVED EXPLANATION OF STATUS OF
THREE HUMANITARIAN CASES FROM MFA CONSULAR DEPT OFFICIAL.
GEYER THEN SAID THAT THE GDR "INTERNALLY" HAD ALWAYS HAD PROBLEMS
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WITH "HUMANITARIAN CASES" FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS.

2. THERE WAS, HE SAID, CASES OF ADULTS LEAVING THE GDR "ONE
WAY OR ANOTHER" SOME TEN TO TWENTY YEARS AGO, LEAVING ONE OR
MORE CHILDREN IN EAST GERMANY. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY OR
GUARDIANS TOOK IN THE CHILDREN, CARE FOR THEM, AND DEVELOPED
STRONG TIES OF AFFECTION WHICH WERE USUALLY RECIPROCATED.

THEN, WITHIN THE LAST FEW YEARS, THE PARENT ABROAD "DISCOVERED" PARENTAL TIES AND CLAIMED THE CHILD. THE NETWORK OF RELATIONSHIPS AND AFFECTION SURROUNDING THE CHILD AND EVEN GRANDCHILDREN IN THE GDR HAS GROWN SO COMPLICATED THAT GDR COURTS WERE HESITANT TO INVOLVE THEMSELVES - AND, FREQUENTLY, THE CHILDREN FELT CLOSER TO THE PEOPLE WHO HAD REARED THEM THAN THE PARENT WHO HAD "ABANDONED" THEM.

3. THE GDR FELT THAT IT WAS BEING FORTHCOMING ON A NUMBER OF CASES. HOWEVER, IT REMAINED CONCERNED THAT SOME OF THE CASES WERE "ARTIFICIAL" AND WERE PERHAPS BEING "STIMULATED" UNNECESSARILY.

4. EMBOFF RESPONDED BY REPEATING WHAT USG OBLIGATION IN THESE CASES WAS, E.G. TO REPRESENT THE INTEREST OF AMERICAN CITIZENS IN FAMILY REUNIFICATION OR MARRIAGE WITH FAMILY MEMBERS OR LOVED ONE. (GEYER INTERJECTED BY TELLING STORY OF A GDR GIRL, WHO MARRIED A MAN, WHO AFTER TELLING HER THAT HE HAD STAGED THE MARRIAGE TO GET HER "OUT TO FREEDOM", SAID THAT HE HAD NO AFFECTION FOR HER. SHE HAD CONTACTED THE GDR EMBASSY REQUESTING ASSISTANCE, PRESUMABLY FINANCIAL TO GET BACK TO THE GDR.) EMBOFF CONTINUED BY SAYING THAT THE USG DID NOT SEEK TO CREATE CASES BUT WAS OBLIGATED TO CONTINUE REPRESENTING AMERICAN CITIZEN INTERESTS AS LONG AS THE PRINCIPALS WANTED HELP FOR REUNIFICATION. WE RETIRED FILES ON CASES JUST AS SOON AS WE HAD RECEIVED SATISFACTORY EVIDENCE THAT THE PEOPLE INVOLVED HAD REALLY CHANGED THEIR MINDS OF THEIR OWN FREE WILL. GEYER EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AT THIS AND THEN CHANGED THE SUBJECT.

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5. COMMENT: WE HAVE ENCOUNTERED THIS FEAR OF ARTIFICIAL STIMULATION OF CASES IN GDR OFFICIALS FROM TIME TO TIME SINCE WE OPENED THIS EMBASSY. WE HAVE ALWAYS TAKEN THE LINE IN PARA. 4 ABOVE IMMEDIATELY IN RESPONSE. POLANSKY

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